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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/020,130	12/18/2001	Takashi Mochizuki	Q67762	7342
23373	7590	12/30/2005	EXAMINER	
SUGHRUE MION, PLLC 2100 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, N.W. SUITE 800 WASHINGTON, DC 20037			DEAN, RAYMOND S	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2684	

DATE MAILED: 12/30/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/020,130	MOCHIZUKI, TAKASHI	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Raymond S. Dean	2684	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 October 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 - 10 and 18 - 28 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 - 10 and 18 - 28 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 18 December 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 6, 18, and 19 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Regarding Claims 1, 18

Examiner respectfully disagrees with Applicants' assertion that Dabak does not teach the other base stations transmitting user data in said downlink signals to the mobile terminal after the identification of the selected first base station is transmitted. Dabak, as asserted in the Office Action dated July 29, 2005 (See lines 6 – 12 of the rejection of Claim 1), teaches base stations (504,506) that are not selected. These base stations will transmit data in the subsequent data frames. The subsequent data frames are the frames after the frame during which the transmission of data from said base stations is terminated. The transmission of data is terminated for the next frame, which means that there will be data transmissions in the subsequent frames following said next frame (See Column 6 lines 2 – 7, lines 64 – 67, Column 7 lines 1 – 4).

Toskala et al. (US 6,650,905), hereafter Toskala, teaches transmitting, from the mobile terminal, identification of the selected first base station to the first base station and other base stations not selected by said mobile terminal (Column 10 lines 22 – 25). Toskala further teaches sending information, from the mobile terminal to the other base stations, to modify the transmission power of the downlink signals of the base stations based on the determined transmission power of the downlink signals from said other

Art Unit: 2684

base stations not selected by said mobile terminal (Column 10 lines 30 – 38, lines 43 – 50, See also Document 3G TS 25.214 v 3.1.1 Sections 5.2.1.1 and 5.2.1.2). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the power control method taught by Toskala in the system of Dabak for the purpose of controlling transmission power in SSDT mode as taught by Toskala.

Regarding Claims 6, 19

Examiner respectfully disagrees with Applicants assertions regarding Dabak for the same reasons as set forth above.

Roxbergh (US 6,553,016), hereafter Roxbergh, teaches demodulating, at the mobile terminal, user data from said selected first base station by combining the downlink signal of the selected first base station and the downlink signals from said other base stations not selected by said mobile terminal (Figures 2A, 2B, Column 3 lines 66 – 67, Column 4 lines 1 – 12, lines 21 – 27, in one case base station 10 is the selected base station and in another case base station 11 is the selected base station). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the diversity handover method taught by Roxbergh as an alternative handoff means in the system of Dabak in view of Toskala thereby insuring a handover operation without any perceptible disturbance in the voice or data communications as taught by Roxbergh.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1, 18, 25, and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dabak (US 6,862,275) in view of Toskala et al. (US 6,650,905).

Regarding Claim 1, Dabak teaches a transmission power control method for controlling the transmission power of downlink signals from base stations to a mobile terminal in a mobile communication system, comprising the steps of: selecting, at the mobile terminal, a first base station, said first base station transmitting user data in a downlink signal with a preferred reception quality (Column 5 lines 50 – 67, Column 6 lines 1 – 11); determining, at the mobile terminal, transmission power of downlink signals from other base stations not selected by said mobile terminal, said other base stations transmitting user data in said downlink signals to the mobile terminal after the identification of the selected first base station is transmitted (Column 6 lines 2 – 7, lines 64 – 67, Column 7 lines 1 – 4, the base stations (504,506) are the base stations that are not selected, said base stations will resume transmitting data symbols in the subsequent data frames, which are the frames after the base station (502) is selected); sending information, from the mobile terminal to the base station, to modify the transmission power of the downlink signals of the base station based on the determined

transmission power of the downlink signals from said base station (Column 5 lines 32 – 49).

Dabak does not teach transmitting, from the mobile terminal, identification of the selected first base station to the first base station and other base stations not selected by said mobile terminal, sending information from the mobile terminal to the other base stations, to modify the transmission power of the downlink signals of the base stations based on the determined transmission power of the downlink signals from said base stations not selected by said mobile terminal.

Toskala teaches transmitting, from the mobile terminal, identification of the selected first base station to the first base station and other base stations not selected by said mobile terminal (Column 10 lines 22 – 25). Toskala further teaches sending information, from the mobile terminal to the other base stations, to modify the transmission power of the downlink signals of the base stations based on the determined transmission power of the downlink signals from said other base stations not selected by said mobile terminal (Column 10 lines 30 – 38, lines 43 – 50, See also Document 3G TS 25.214 v 3.1.1 Sections 5.2.1.1 and 5.2.1.2).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the power control method taught by Toskala in the system of Dabak for the purpose of controlling transmission power in SSDT mode as taught by Toskala.

Regarding Claim 18, Dabak teaches a mobile terminal that controls transmission power of downlink signals from base stations in a mobile communication system,

comprising: base station selection means for selecting a first base station that is transmitting user data in a downlink signal with a preferred reception quality (Column 5 lines 50 – 67, Column 6 lines 1 – 11), downlink signal weight decision means for determining transmission power of downlink signals from other base stations not selected by said mobile terminal, said other base stations transmitting user data in said downlink signals to the mobile terminal after the identification of the selected first base station is transmitted (Column 6 lines 2 – 7, lines 64 – 67, Column 7 lines 1 – 4, the base stations (504,506) are the base stations that are not selected, said base stations will resume transmitting data symbols in the subsequent data frames, which are the frames after the base station (502) is selected);

Dabak does not teach transmission means for transmitting, from the mobile terminal, identification of the selected first base station to the first base station and other base stations not selected by said mobile terminal and a downlink TPC command decision means for using the downlink signals from said other base stations to decide whether transmission power of said other base stations is excessive or insufficient, and to instruct an increase or decrease of said transmission power based on the determined transmission power of the downlink signals from said other base stations not selected by said mobile terminal.

Toskala teaches transmission means for transmitting, from the mobile terminal, identification of the selected first base station to the first base station and other base stations not selected by said mobile terminal (Column 10 lines 22 – 25) and a downlink TPC command decision means for using the downlink signals from said other base

stations to decide whether transmission power of said other base stations is excessive or insufficient, and to instruct an increase or decrease of said transmission power based on the determined transmission power of the downlink signals from said other base stations not selected by said mobile terminal (Column 10 lines 30 – 38, lines 43 – 50, See also Document 3G TS 25.214 v 3.1.1 Sections 5.2.1.1 and 5.2.1.2).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the power control method taught by Toskala in the system of Dabak for the purpose of controlling transmission power in SSDT mode as taught by Toskala.

Regarding Claims 25, 27, Dabak in view of Toskala teaches all of the claimed limitations recited in Claims 1, 18. Dabak further teaches wherein said other base stations not selected by the mobile terminal transmit user data to the mobile terminal and transmit pilot data after the identification of the selected first base station is transmitted (Column 6 lines 2 – 7, lines 64 – 67, Column 7 lines 1 – 4, the base stations (504,506) are the base stations that are not selected, said base stations will resume transmitting data symbols in the subsequent data frames, which are the frames after the base station (502) is selected). Toskala further teaches a downlink dedicated physical channel and a downlink dedicated control channel (Column 10 lines 43 – 50).

4. Claims 2 – 5 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dabak (US 6,862,275) in view of Toskala et al. (US 6,650,905) as applied to Claims 1, 18 above, and further in view of Mohebbi (US 6,603,971).

Regarding Claim 2, Dabak in view of Toskala teaches all of the claimed limitations recited in Claim 1. Dabak in view of Toskala does not teach estimating uplink reception quality of said other base stations.

Mohebbi teaches estimating uplink reception quality of base stations (Column 9 lines 12 – 15).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the estimation method taught by Mohebbi in the system of Dabak in view of Toskala for the purpose of reducing the backhaul load in the fixed network as taught by Mohebbi.

Regarding Claim 3, Dabak in view of Toskala and in further view of Mohebbi teaches all of the claimed limitations recited in Claim 2. Mohebbi further teaches wherein signal weights are determined for the downlink signals from said other base stations based on the uplink reception quality (Column 6 lines 63 – 67, Column 7 lines 1 – 2, Column 9 lines 12 – 15, the base station that experiences the best uplink reception quality can be the highest ranked base station, the ranking is the weighting).

Regarding Claim 4, Dabak in view of Toskala and in further view of Mohebbi teaches all of the claimed limitations recited in Claim 2. Dabak further teaches a base station that is transmitting user data to the mobile terminal after the first base station is selected (Column 6 lines 2 – 5, lines 64 – 67, Column 7 lines 1 – 4, the base stations (504,506) are the base stations that are not selected, said base stations will resume transmitting data symbols in the subsequent data frames, which are the frames after the base station (502) is selected). Toskala further teaches calculating a correlation

between an increase or decrease in transmission power instructed by a transmission power control, and an increase or decrease in transmission power of a downlink signal received from a base station wherein said correlation is calculated based on a difference of the increase or decrease of the transmission power instructed and the increase or decrease in the transmission power of the downlink signal received (Column 10 lines 30 – 38, lines 43 – 50, See also Document 3G TS 25.214 v 3.1.1 Sections 5.2.1.1 and 5.2.1.2, there is a correlation between the transmission power control and the transmission power of the downlink signal because the transmit power control controls the transmission power of the downlink, in a closed loop power control system, such as the one used according to the 3G TS 25.214 v 3.1.1, there will be a difference between the actual change in transmission power and the TPC step due to the characteristics of the electronic circuits used in said closed loop method).

Regarding Claims 5, 23, Dabak in view of Toskala teaches all of the claimed limitations recited in Claims 1, 18. Toskala further teaches a signal obtained by combining downlink signals from said other base stations is used to determine whether the transmission power of the other base stations is excessive or insufficient (Figure 11, Column 7 lines 66 – 67, Column 8 lines 1 – 32, Column 10 lines 43 – 50).

Dabak in view of Toskala does not teach weighted downlink signals.

Mohebbi teaches weighted downlink signals (Column 6 lines 63 – 67, Column 7 lines 1 – 2, the ranking is the weighting).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the weighting method taught by Mohebbi in the system of

Art Unit: 2684

Dabak in view of Toskala for the purpose of reducing the backhaul load in the fixed network as taught by Mohebbi.

5. Claims 6, 19, 26, and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dabak (US 6,862,275) in view of Toskala et al. (US 6,650,905) and in further view of Roxbergh (US 6,553,016).

Regarding Claim 6, Dabak teaches a receiving method for demodulating user data in a downlink signal from base stations to a mobile terminal in a mobile communications system, comprising the steps of: selecting, at the mobile terminal, a first base station, said first base station transmitting user data in a downlink signal having a preferred reception quality (Column 5 lines 50 – 67, Column 6 lines 1 – 11), other base stations transmitting user data after the identification of the selected first base station is transmitted (Column 6 lines 2 – 7, lines 64 – 67, Column 7 lines 1 – 4, the base stations (504,506) are the base stations that are not selected, said base stations will resume transmitting data symbols in the subsequent data frames, which are the frames after the base station (502) is selected).

Dabak does not teach transmitting, from the mobile terminal, identification of the selected first base station to the first base station and other base stations not selected by said mobile terminal and using the downlink signals, from said other base stations not selected by said mobile terminal to demodulate, at the mobile terminal, user data from said selected first base station by combining the downlink signal of the selected

first base station and the downlink signals from said other base stations not selected by said mobile terminal.

Toskala teaches transmitting, from the mobile terminal, identification of the selected first base station to the first base station and other base stations not selected by said mobile terminal (Column 10 lines 22 – 25).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the base station selection method taught by Toskala in the system of Dabak as an alternative means for informing wireless network entities as to what base station has been selected during SSDT mode as taught by Toskala.

Dabak in view of Toskala does not teach using the downlink signals, from said other base stations not selected by said mobile terminal to demodulate, at the mobile terminal, user data from said selected first base station by combining the downlink signal of the selected first base station and the downlink signals from said other base stations not selected by said mobile terminal.

Roxbergh teaches demodulating, at the mobile terminal, user data from said selected first base station by combining the downlink signal of the selected first base station and the downlink signals from said other base stations not selected by said mobile terminal (Figures 2A, 2B, Column 3 lines 66 – 67, Column 4 lines 1 – 12, lines 21 – 27, in one case base station 10 is the selected base station and in another case base station 11 is the selected base station).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the diversity handover method taught by Roxbergh as an

alternative handoff means in the system of Dabak in view of Toskala thereby insuring a handover operation without any perceptible disturbance in the voice or data communications as taught by Roxbergh.

Regarding Claim 19, Dabak teaches a mobile terminal for receiving user data in the downlink signal from base stations in a mobile communication system, comprising: base station selecting means for selecting, a first base station that is transmitting user data in a downlink signal with a preferred downlink reception quality (Column 5 lines 50 – 67, Column 6 lines 1 – 11), downlink signal weight decision means for determining transmission power of downlink signals from other base stations not selected by said mobile terminal, said other base stations transmitting user data in said downlink signals to the mobile terminal after the identification of the selected first base station is transmitted (Column 6 lines 2 – 7, lines 64 – 67, Column 7 lines 1 – 4, the base stations (504,506) are the base stations that are not selected, said base stations will resume transmitting data symbols in the subsequent data frames, which are the frames after the base station (502) is selected);

Dabak does not teach transmission means for transmitting, from the mobile terminal, identification of the selected first base station to the first base station and other base stations not selected by said mobile terminal and data demodulating means for using downlink signals from said other base stations to demodulate user data from said first base station by combining the downlink signal of the selected first base station and the downlink signals from said other base stations not selected by said mobile terminal.

Toskala teaches transmission means for transmitting, from the mobile terminal, identification of the selected first base station to the first base station and other base stations not selected by said mobile terminal (Column 10 lines 22 – 25).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the base station selection method taught by Toskala in the system of Dabak as an alternative means for informing wireless network entities as to what base station has been selected during SSDT mode as taught by Toskala.

Dabak in view of Toskala does not teach data demodulating means for using downlink signals from said other base stations to demodulate user data from said first base station by combining the downlink signal of the selected first base station and the downlink signals from said other base stations not selected by said mobile terminal.

Roxbergh teaches data demodulating means for using downlink signals from said other base stations to demodulate user data from said first base station by combining the downlink signal of the selected first base station and the downlink signals from said other base stations not selected by said mobile terminal (Figures 2A, 2B, Column 3 lines 66 – 67, Column 4 lines 1 – 12, lines 21 – 27, in one case base station 10 is the selected base station and in another case base station 11 is the selected base station).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the diversity handover method taught by Roxbergh as an alternative handoff means in the system of Dabak in view of Toskala thereby insuring a handover operation without any perceptible disturbance in the voice or data communications as taught by Roxbergh.

Regarding Claims 26, 28, Dabak in view of Toskala and in further view of Roxbergh teaches all of the claimed limitations recited in Claims 6, 19. Dabak further teaches wherein said other base stations not selected by the mobile terminal transmit user data to the mobile terminal and transmit pilot data after the identification of the selected first base station is transmitted (Column 6 lines 2 – 7, lines 64 – 67, Column 7 lines 1 – 4, the base stations (504,506) are the base stations that are not selected, said base stations will resume transmitting data symbols in the subsequent data frames, which are the frames after the base station (502) is selected). Toskala further teaches a downlink dedicated physical channel and a downlink dedicated control channel (Column 10 lines 43 – 50).

6. Claims 7 – 10, 20 – 22, and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dabak (US 6,862,275) in view of Toskala (US 6,650,905) in view of Roxbergh (US 6,553,016), as applied to Claims 6, 19 above, and further in view of Mohebbi (US 6,603,971).

Regarding Claims 7, 20, Dabak in view of Toskala and in further view of Roxbergh teaches all of the claimed limitations recited in Claims 6, 19. Dabak in view of Toskala and in further view of Roxbergh does not teach determining estimated uplink reception quality of said other base stations.

Mohebbi teaches determining estimated uplink reception quality of base stations (Column 9 lines 12 – 15).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the estimation method taught by Mohebbi in the system of Dabak in view of Toskala and in further view of Roxbergh for the purpose of reducing the backhaul load in the fixed network as taught by Mohebbi.

Regarding Claims 8, 21, Dabak in view of Toskala in view of Roxbergh and in further view of Mohebbi teaches all of the claimed limitations recited in Claims 7, 20. Mohebbi further teaches wherein signal weights are determined for the downlink signals from said other base stations based on the uplink reception quality (Column 6 lines 63 – 67, Column 7 lines 1 – 2, Column 9 lines 12 – 15, the base station that experiences the best uplink reception quality can be the highest ranked base station, the ranking is the weighting).

Regarding Claims 9, 22, Dabak in view of Toskala in view of Roxbergh and in further view of Mohebbi teaches all of the claimed limitations recited in Claims 7, 20. Toskala further teaches calculating a correlation between an increase or decrease in transmission power instructed by a transmission power control, and an increase or decrease in transmission power of a downlink signal received from a base station that is transmitting user data to the mobile terminal after the first base station is selected wherein said correlation is calculated based on a difference of the increase or decrease of the transmission power instructed and the increase or decrease in the transmission power of the downlink signal received (Column 10 lines 30 – 38, lines 43 – 50, See also Document 3G TS 25.214 v 3.1.1 Sections 5.2.1.1 and 5.2.1.2, there is a correlation between the transmission power control and the transmission power of the downlink

Art Unit: 2684

signal because the transmit power control controls the transmission power of the downlink, in a closed loop power control system, such as the one used according to the 3G TS 25.214 v 3.1.1, there will be a difference between the actual change in transmission power and the TPC step due to the characteristics of the electronic circuits used in said closed loop method)

Regarding Claims 10, 24, Dabak in view of Toskala and in further view of Roxbergh teaches all of the claimed limitations recited in Claims 6, 19. Roxbergh further teaches wherein a signal obtained by combining downlink signals from the other base stations is used for demodulating the user data from said first base station (Figures 2A, 2B, Column 3 lines 66 – 67, Column 4 lines 1 – 12, lines 21 – 27, in one case base station 10 is the selected base station and in another case base station 11 is the selected base station).

Dabak in view of Toskala and in further view of Roxbergh does not teach weighted downlink signals.

Mohebbi teaches weighted downlink signals (Column 6 lines 63 – 67, Column 7 lines 1 – 2, the ranking is the weighting).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the weighting method taught by Mohebbi in the system of Dabak in view of Toskala and in further view of Roxbergh for the purpose of reducing the backhaul load in the fixed network as taught by Mohebbi.

Conclusion

7. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Raymond S. Dean whose telephone number is 571-272-7877. The examiner can normally be reached on 6:00-2:30.

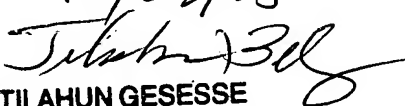
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nay A. Maung can be reached on 571-272-7882. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2684

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Raymond S. Dean
December 23, 2005

12/23/05

TILAHUN GESESSE
PRIMARY EXAMINER